

Amendments to Specification

Please replace the ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE with the following amended Abstract:

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An impact absorbing device for a vehicle uses a shape memory material that can be heated to repair deformation from a relatively low speed, low energy impact and its stroking force and energy absorption can be tuned by heating. The shape memory material is suitably used in a crash box having an inserted impact absorbing ram, the box being placed, for example, between a bumper and strong body member. The shape memory material is attached to the box and ram for absorbing energy as the ram is driven into the box. Electric resistance heating may be used ~~Heating means is provided~~ to repair or tune the shape memory material.

Please replace paragraphs 0018 and 0021 with the following amended paragraphs:

[0018] Present automobiles have a bumper system that often includes an outer layer of decorative fascia material which is shaped and painted to complement the design of the front end of the vehicle. The fascia covers a bumper bar which spans the front of the vehicle and is formed of a suitable polymeric material or preferably steel or aluminum. The bar is often attached to a rail body frame structure of the body by means of a hydraulic shock absorber device. But in accordance with this invention, the bumper bar is attached to the vehicle body by ~~mean~~ means of an interposed crash bar as will be described.

[0021] As shown in Figure 2, wire coil springs 32, (one or more springs on each side of ram 16, with two springs on each side shown) of nickel-titanium shape memory material are employed as impact absorbing members. The front end 34 of each spring 32 is mechanically attached by any suitable connector (not visible in Figure 2) (~~tabs shown at 38~~) to the front 24 of crash box 14. The rear end 36 of each spring 32 is mechanically attached to base plate 30

by a suitable mechanical connector 40. The connector for the front end of spring 32 is suitably like mechanical connector 40. Thus, any impact on ram member 16 tending to drive it further into crash box 14 is resisted by coil springs 32.